29th October 1935]

Death of D. Dorasingam, an Adi-Dravida prisoner, confined in the Coimbatore Central Jail.

* 222 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that an Adi-Dravida pupil of the Ootacamund Municipal High School, named D. Dorasingam, was convicted in March 1935 and sent to Coimbatore Jail;

(*b*) whether the boy died in jail about June 6, 1935;

(*c*) whether the death of the boy was not intimated to his parents until after the boy's father sent a prepaid telegram in the first week of July;

(*d*) what the usual procedure adopted is in case of deaths as to informing the parents or relatives concerned;

(*e*) why timely notice was not given to the relatives concerned in this case; and

(*f*) what the Government do in a case of gross negligence on the part of the Jail authorities in this respect?

A.—(*a*) One convict, D. Dorasingam, a student, was admitted in the Central Jail, Coimbatore, on 31st January 1935.

(*b*) He died in the Jail Hospital on 10th June 1935.

(*c*) The facts are as stated by the Member of the Legislative Council.

(*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) There were no specific rules on the point. The Inspector-General has since issued a circular directing that timely intimation should be given to the relatives of the death of prisoners, removed to the Jail Hospital or the Government Civil Hospital on account of dangerous illness. Steps are being taken to amend the rules in Part II of the Jail Manual, making it obligatory on the part of the jail officials to inform the relatives of prisoners, who are dangerously ill or who die in jail hospitals.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I ask Sir, why this boy was not sent to the Reformatory school?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I do not know the age of the boy. I dare say it was the order of the Magistrate."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"How long was this boy ill in jail?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Notice."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know why the matter was not communicated to his parents until after the receipt of a telegram from them?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"It was communicated a little later."